8 extending between these two waist regions 6, 7. The front and rear waist regions 6, 7 are put flat together along their respective pairs of transversely opposite side edges 11, 12 and joined together at joining spots 13 arranged along the side edges 11, 12 intermittently in a vertical direction as viewed in Fig. 1 so as to form a waist-hole 16 and a pair of leg-holes 17. An elastic member extends circumferentially around the waist-hole 16 and elastic members 19 extend circumferentially around respective the leg-holes 17. The diaper 1 comprises a liquid-pervious topsheet 2 defining the inner side of the diaper 1, a liquid-impervious backsheet 3 defining the outer side of the diaper 1 and a liquid-absorbent core 4 disposed between the topsheet 2 and the backsheet 3.

On pages 4 and 5 of the Substitute Specification please substitute the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 with the following paragraph:

The diaper 1 is assembled by putting the transversely opposite side edges 11, 12 of the front and rear waist regions 6, 7 flat together, then joining them together at the joining spots 13 and thereby an annular elastic zone is formed by the front and rear elastic zones 18A, 18B. Of the front and rear elastic zones 18A, 18B, the rear elastic zone 18B is illustrated in a state before elastic zone 18B is attached to the rear covering zone 22. The rear elastic zone 18B comprises a rubber ribbon 31 which can be elastically stretched by at least 1.3 times, preferably by 2.0 times, more preferably by at least 3.0 times of a length L of the rear waist region 7. A covering sheet 32 adapted to cover the rubber ribbon 31 is longer than the dimension L and at least as stretchable as the rubber ribbon 31. The number of the rubber ribbons 31 and their shape as well as the dimension of their cross-section are not specified. Raw material for the rubber ribbon 31 also is not specified and may be selected from a group

B2 Cont'd

including natural rubber, synthetic rubber, synthetic resin elastomer, synthetic resin elastic threads and a woven fabric made of such elastic threads. However, it is important that the front and rear elastic zones 18A, 18B each comprising an assembly of the rubber ribbon 31 and the covering sheet 32 should have their circumferential stretch stress preferably when they are stretched by 3 ~ 20% lower than a stretch stress exhibited by portions of the front and rear covering zones 21, 22 extending along the elastic zones 18A, 18B having the same widths as the elastic zones 18A, 18B. Generally, the covering sheet 32 is longer than the dimension L and inelastically or elastically stretched as the rubber ribbon 31 is elastically stretched. For example, a non-stretchable sheet longer than the dimension L is formed with gathers 33 undulating in the circumferential direction along the waist-hole to make this sheet substantially stretchable and this covering sheet 32 is attached to the rear covering zone 22. Alternatively, the covering sheet 32 can comprise an inelastically stretchable sheet attached to the rear covering zone 22 so that the sheet may be stretched as the rubber ribbon 31 is stretched and form gathers as the rubber ribbon 31 contracts. It is also possible to use a covering sheet 32 that is adapted to be elastically stretched together with the rubber ribbon 31.

On page 6 of the Substitute Specification please substitute the first full paragraph with the following paragraph:

B3

With the diaper 1, the elastic zone associated with the waist-hole 16 is stretched as indicated by the imaginary lines in Fig. 1 and said waist-hole 16 is adequately opened so that the diaper 1 can be easily put on a wearer's body even when the front and rear covering zones 21, 22 have no stretchability in the circumferential direction.